

## SENATE BILL No. 660

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 11-10-13.

**Synopsis:** Indiana mentor program. Establishes the Indiana mentor program for female criminal offenders to be administered by the department of correction. Provides that the purpose of the program is to reduce the recidivism rates of female criminal offenders, ease the transition of the offenders back into the community, and assist the offenders to compete in and contribute to society. Requires the department of correction to establish the program in relation to at least one correctional facility. Requires the department to appoint a 19 member board of directors to conduct the business affairs and oversee the finances of the program. Provides that the program consists of three phases involving a self-awareness program, community outreach, and  
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**Effective:** July 1, 1999.

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### Sipes, Simpson

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January 22, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections, Criminal and Civil Procedures.

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Digest Continued

education. Requires the department, or the department's designee, to collect data concerning housing, education, and employment of the program participants and other information.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 660

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning corrections.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 11-10-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 1999]:

4 **Chapter 13. Indiana Mentor Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the Indiana**  
6 **mentor program.**

7 **Sec. 2. The department shall establish the Indiana mentor**  
8 **program.**

9 **Sec. 3. The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**  
10 **carry out the purpose of this chapter.**

11 **Sec. 4. The purpose of the program is to do the following:**

12 **(1) Reduce the number of women who return to prison within**  
13 **the first year of release.**

14 **(2) Develop a support system for the transition of female**  
15 **criminal offenders into the community.**



(3) Assist female offenders to compete in and contribute to society.

**Sec. 5.** The department shall establish the program in relation to at least one (1) correctional facility.

**Sec. 6. (a)** The department shall appoint a board of directors consisting of nineteen (19) members.

(b) The board conducts the business affairs and oversees the finances of the program.

(c) The board shall meet at least one (1) time per month to develop goals for the program and to review the program's performance.

**Sec. 7.** The board shall do the following:

(1) Secure funding for the program.

(2) Arrange for office space for the program.

(3) Hire an executive director to administer the program.

(4) Hire a coordinator to administer phase I of the program under section 11 of this chapter.

(5) Develop a self-awareness program to accomplish the program's purposes under section 4 of this chapter.

(6) Recruit professional presenters from the community to participate in community outreach activities.

(7) Recruit persons to be program mentors.

(8) Raise awareness of the program through the news media, public appearances, and special events.

**Sec. 8. (a)** All program participants are volunteers.

(b) To be eligible to become a program participant a woman must be an incarcerated criminal offender. Before enrollment in the program, the woman must participate in an interview in which the woman discusses the reason the woman wants to change and discusses her willingness to change. Guidelines for completion of the course are also discussed at this interview.

**Sec. 9.** The board shall select mentors for the program from the community. A mentor may be a graduate of the postgraduate phase of the program if the woman has resided successfully in the community for at least one (1) year.

**Sec. 10.** The program consists of three (3) phases described in sections 11 through 13 of this chapter.

**Sec. 11. (a)** Phase I of the program is a self-awareness program designed to allow the program participants to understand their emotions and behaviors. Phase I consists of at least forty-eight (48) workshops that are each two (2) hours in duration. The workshops must be conducted during a thirteen (13) week period.



(b) The workshops under subsection (a) must offer instruction in the following five (5) areas:

- (1) Self-actualization.
- (2) Relapse prevention.
- (3) Developing healthy relationships.
- (4) Preparation for employment.
- (5) Educational opportunities.

(c) After phase I is completed, program participants may be assigned to work release, if appropriate, or shall remain incarcerated while participating in the postgraduate phase of the program described in section 12 of this chapter.

Sec. 12. (a) The postgraduate phase offers program participants who graduated from phase I of the program with the opportunity to understand and change their patterns of behavior. The program participants in the postgraduate phase shall meet one (1) time per week for a two (2) hour session.

(b) A program participant may be enrolled in the postgraduate phase until the participant's release from prison.

(c) During the postgraduate phase, a program participant must represent the program in special events.

Sec. 13. The final phase of the program is the education and recruitment phase in which the executive director and program participants who are in the community shall speak to organizations and participate in special events relating to the program.

Sec. 14. The board shall seek support for the program from local corporations, organizations, and universities:

- (1) to provide volunteer time and services; and
- (2) to serve as presenters, mentors, or board members for the program.

Sec. 15. Mentors of the program shall encourage program participants to do the following:

- (1) Change the manner in which the program participants interact in society.
- (2) Become involved in support organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous and women's counseling groups.
- (3) Increase educational levels and seek employment that offers career advancement.

Sec. 16. The department shall collect data, or select a designee to collect data, on the program participants. The program participants must be tracked through the criminal justice system and the data must be updated one (1) time per year. The data must relate to the housing, education, and employment of the program



- 1 participants. The data must address other performance measures  
2 such as:  
3 (1) the number of criminal offenders assisted by the program;  
4 (2) recidivism rates; and  
5 (3) the degree to which the program participants have  
6 separated from negative home environments upon release.

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